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UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMITTEE OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND EDUCATION,  
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THE NEW SCREEN IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

## SCREEN.—WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

WESTMINSTER Abbey has been justly said to be part of the Constitution, and it is impossible that an Englishman can walk through the aisles of that majestic building, without being impressed by its grandeur, and without a feeling of pride that he belongs to a country, which contains so noble a temple, and so rich a sepulchre.

Those walls, where speaking marbles show  
What worthies form the hallow'd mould below:  
Proud names, who once the reins of empire held;  
In arms who triumph'd, or in arts excell'd;  
Chiefs graced with scars, and prodigal of blood;  
Stern patriots, who for sacred freedom stood;  
Just men, by whom impartial laws were given,  
And Saints, who taught, and led the way to Heaven.

It is not our present purpose to give any *general description*\* of this edifice, but to confine ourselves to a notice of the beautiful Choir Screen represented in the accompanying print, and which has been recently executed under the direction of Mr. Blore, at the expense of the Dean and Chapter of the Church.

The Screen of a Cathedral, dividing the nave and choir, as the present one, is a prominent and important feature, as, from the main western entrance, the eye almost immediately rests upon it. In some of our cathedrals, (York, for instance,) the choir screen is of most elaborate sculpture, and the good taste of the present age, has removed from several of our churches the barbarous additions introduced in the days of James the First, and of successive monarchs; and has replaced them with ornaments, which harmonize with the general character of the buildings in which they are placed.

The late Screen in Westminster Abbey, was of modern date, and was probably erected either by, or under the direction of Mr. Keene, Surveyor of the Works, about the year 1775; (at which time the choir was fitted up much in the state it now appears,) and as our readers will recollect, it accorded but little with the beauty of the fabric.

The present Screen is divided into three highly ornamented arches, with trefoil heads.

The centre one, which forms the entrance into the Choir, is distinguished from the side arches by a pediment enclosing rich tracery. The two side arches form recesses, containing the monuments of Sir Isaac Newton, and James, the first Earl Stanhope. Both these monuments were designed by Kent, and executed by Rysbrack, and in their design, they possess a general uniformity.

It may be questioned, how far monuments ornamented with sarcophagi, recumbent statues, &c., are suited to a Screen like this, but as the architect found them so placed, he had no alternative but to set them off to the best advantage, and this he has managed most successfully. Between the arches, and at the angles of the Screen, are placed bold and lofty turrets, in niches on the fronts and sides of which are placed, under canopies, full-length figures of Edward the Confessor and his Queen, the founders of the Church; and of Henry the Third and Edward the First, and their respective Queens, by whom it was rebuilt. A great addition has recently been made to the effect of this Screen, by a new organ-case of corresponding design, executed in oak by Mr. Francis Ruddle of Peterborough, erected also at the expense of the Dean and Chapter, from the designs of the same architect; but the limits of our work have prevented our representing the whole instrument in connexion with the Stone Screen, to which it forms a most appropriate appendage.

H. M.

\* At an early opportunity, a *Supplementary Number* will be devoted to this subject.

## LOAN FUNDS.

## No. III.

WITH the wish to convey any information that seems likely to lead to the improvement of the condition and comforts of the humbler classes, we return to this subject. Two former papers on Loan Funds, supplied by an intelligent gentleman, will be found in another part of the *Saturday Magazine*\*. We again quote his observations.

Supposing that the advantages of the proposed plan were thought real and substantial, a beginning might be made with a very trifling sum, as the repayment of the loan by weekly instalments produces, during the year, a very large amount to be circulated as capital. Each pound must be repaid in the course of twenty weeks, and the sum brought in every week, by way of instalment, may be lent out the same day, and produce a new available income. So extensive is the pecuniary power of the system, that an original sum of £100 would circulate above £500 a year, to be diffused among those classes to whom such assistance is most valuable. And should only a much smaller sum be attainable, there is no reason that the endeavour should not be commenced, as a person devoting even £20 to the object, in the circle of a small village or unfrequented district, would circulate loans to the amount of £100 a year, which, in some places, might be all that is needed. When the plan is once begun, its utility appears so evident, that, in general, there is no want of adequate subscriptions.

Information might then be given in the neighbourhood, either by printed notices, or in any other way which may seem fit, that the industrious poor will receive the aid of loans, for approved purposes, on adequate security, by application to the Managers of the Loan Fund, at a specified time and place.

On application being made for a loan, the first point would be to ascertain diligently the condition of the applicant, and the object for which the money is wanted. None should be allowed to borrow, who are not so circumstanced in pecuniary affairs as to render them fit objects of such assistance, the funds not being intended to advance the condition of those already well off, but to prevent persons from falling into extreme distress, and to give a help towards the exertion of industry. The same principle is to be held in view, whether the money is supplied altogether gratuitously, or whether a small interest is charged: gain for themselves, in neither case, being obtained or desired by the supporters of the institution.

Neither should loans be made to those whose object is merely to deal or sell again, without their being able to prove themselves under particular circumstances of need. Disregard to this point would encourage idle traffic, and deprive the general trader of his fair profits.

Nor should any one obtain assistance whose habits are marked by idleness, drunkenness, dishonesty, or any other notorious faults—for three reasons—first, because this way of expending the money would deprive the poor and industrious of that which was intended for their special use; secondly, because it would defeat one of the chief objects of the fund, viz. the encouragement of good conduct; and, thirdly, because the interest of the securities should not be overlooked; and none ought to obtain relief, who very probably would become defaulters.

Strict inquiries should also be made from the applicant, as to his means of future weekly repayment, as no borrower should obtain a second loan till the whole of the former was repaid: fair warning should also be given him against borrowing without these means, and the necessity of punctuality strongly enforced.

These various points should be strictly looked to; and though individual cases of apparent hardship may occur, and cases in which the personal feelings of the managers would induce them to relax, yet the general good, and the stability of the fund, require no small degree of strictness and caution. No denial need cause pain or injury, if

\* See *Saturday Magazine*, Vol. III., pp. 94, 198.

† M. F. de Fellenberg described to the writer a species of Juvenile Loan Fund of the most pleasing and useful character, which was carried on by the pupils of his father's school at Hofwyl. They subscribed their money till a sufficient sum had been collected to buy a flock of goats and sheep, which they temporarily lent to any distressed families, to supply them with the milk of those animals, which forms a main article of sustenance in that neighbourhood. This example might serve as an encouragement to the young, or to those who have but little means at their command.

attended by kindness of manner, and a proper explanation of the reason of the refusal.

To facilitate the necessary inquiries respecting the borrower and the security, and to arrive at the truth, the assistance of the Parochial Clergyman, or some other constant resident intimately acquainted with the neighbourhood, is desirable, or rather indispensable.

The first and most obvious ground of opposition, on proposing such an establishment, arises from a suspicion that money lent will not be repaid. Such an opinion sometimes proceeds from too low an estimate of the character of the poor; sometimes from a knowledge, if not personal experience, of losses to which the charitable and humane have been subject, from having made loans in their private capacity without being repaid. That such losses frequently occur there is no doubt, but the case is quite altered in a fund attended by publicity, strict rules, and all necessary precautions. On inquiry, ample evidence of this will be found in different parts of the country, and in neighbourhoods of diversified local character. Should any losses of importance occur, they may always be attributable to errors of management, avoidable without difficulty. The Derry Fund (mentioned before, in a quotation from the Parliamentary Reports), is a most striking instance, among many others, of exact and punctual repayment, continued for a long series of years. It is there directly stated, that the sum lent, and put in circulation, had amounted to £27,300. On this sum the loss, by default of payment, has not exceeded £7. 1s. Here is positive and authorized evidence, quite sufficient for the case. Other establishments of the kind might be mentioned, where nothing whatsoever has been lost; and though it must be expected that accident or misfortune must cause an *occasional defalcation* on the part of the borrower, yet, with due precaution as to securities, no losses of any consequence need be incurred from the original amount subscribed. Incredibly seldom is it requisite to call upon the securities for repayment; and unless grossly blinded by personal interest, as well as indifferent to their reputation in a matter of much publicity, they will immediately acquiesce in the justice and necessity of the demand. If accepted with tolerable judgment, they will feel themselves bound, both by principle and promise, to adhere strictly to the rules in which they voluntarily acquiesce, and will pay the sum due with perfect readiness.

Some have also conceived that a Fund of this kind encourages a pernicious habit of borrowing.

As to the habit of borrowing, there is no doubt that such a habit is injurious in itself, speaking in a general way, and without qualification; but that borrowing for the purposes here specified is injurious, is by no means apparent. Every thing depends on the object for which people borrow, with their capacity for applying the money well; and the question comes to this, whether the poorer classes are to do without capital at all, (the most usual case,)—to borrow it on terms exceedingly ruinous—or to obtain it *for proper objects*, by means of their wealthier neighbours.

Some have also maintained that the prospect of being able to obtain a loan will foster idleness and improvidence, but the very contrary is the result, as no one has the least prospect of meeting assistance, who does not maintain an habitual character for industry. If space admitted, strong facts and testimonials might be produced on this part of the question.

Others also have asserted that the system gives an undue advantage to those who receive loans over those who do not, and places the command of money in the hands of those who otherwise would be unable to obtain it. This is undoubtedly and completely true, but none should make it an objection, except those who are ready to maintain and support the propriety of withholding all aid however cautiously applied, and all pecuniary assistance from the rich to the poor. The great fallacy of those who adopt the idea, of its being advantageous that there should be a sparing, instead of an abundant communication of worldly goods, from those who have them to those who have them not, lies in their begging the question that those who give and communicate amply are less likely to do it with care, caution, and vigilance, than those who communicate sparingly, whereas the very reverse is generally the fact, as the very feeling of duty which makes people give, will make them examine *how* they give.

The possibility of an improper use being made of the loan, is sometimes another source of objection; but the

smallness of the sum to be obtained by any one person, and the number of observers interested in a judicious management of the finances, will, it is hoped, prevent such occurrences. It has also been observed, that the management of such an extensive concern would require too much time and trouble: but the attention of two persons during two hours in the week is sufficient for the direction even of a very extensive Fund.

It may be well to mention a few facilities which attend this mode of bettering the condition of the poor.

Pecuniary contributions are required but once, as after the first establishment, the plan requires no additional Funds for its maintenance.

There is a very trifling cost for setting up; perhaps thirty shillings or two pounds for a book of accounts, and a set of tickets to last for several years.

The money remains unconsumed, should it please the subscribers to apply it at any future time to another purpose.

Extensive assistance and co-operation, though manifestly most desirable, are not absolutely requisite, either in reference to money or time; as though in all probability there would be an ample and useful demand for a fund, however large, yet a fund, however small, will be of proportionate utility.

The plan here described, is not one of those grand and captivating schemes, which are daily put forth and rapidly forgotten. Many establishments of these humble and retired pretensions are at present in operation. The object of the writer has been merely to set before those, who are willing to make the experiment in their own district, a plan which may facilitate their object, and supply practical hints for their adoption. Far from interfering with, or superseding any other manner of assisting the poor, as by Savings Banks, Benefit Societies, &c. &c., a proper system of Loans will be found a powerful auxiliary towards carrying many other useful designs into permanent and complete effect.

Although the plan of a Loan Fund has in general been highly successful, yet improvements will naturally suggest themselves to the reader, together with various adaptations according to local circumstances. Perhaps the statements here thrown together may induce some more competent persons to turn their minds to the necessity of assisting the poorer classes, by some such means on a more extensive scale. T.

**A GOLDEN EXAMPLE.**—Edward Richards, aged 68, the father of six children, the son of a poor man, and the youngest of eleven children, has resided in Cirencester parish fifty-two years, and during the early part of his life was a common labourer. About thirty-five years ago he agreed with a farmer to clear out and improve an acre of rough quarry-land, on condition of having it three years rent free, and then give it up to the owner. On this unpromising spot, he and his wife expended their surplus labour to such advantage, that, during these three years, he cleared 40*l*. He then purchased two acres of then poor land, for which he gave 80*l*. These two acres are now, and have long been, in a highly productive state. Soon after he entered on the cultivation of this land, he raised, in one year, seven quarters of wheat from it, and he had refused one hundred guineas for it. He has now been lord of this little manor for thirty-two years. By the kind offices of a worthy medical gentleman, who had attended him when unwell, he obtained from Earl Bathurst seventy-five perches of poor, waste, unproductive land, subject to be overflowed with water, at a quit-rent of 10*s*. per annum. This spot, which the writer of this has seen, he has possessed about thirty years, and has brought it to a state of value and productiveness that must be seen to be rightly appreciated. For the last ten years, this laborious and industrious man has rented five or six acres of land, besides the two plots already referred to; and during that period has kept two, and sometimes three cows, as also sheep, pigs, &c.; and it may not be uninteresting, in these times, to state, that he has been long a rate-payer, but never a rate-receiver. In short, by honest industry, sobriety, and good conduct, he is a man of substance, an independent Englishman, respectable and respected; and the writer, with feelings of sincere pleasure, remarked that he set a high value on what it was never his good fortune to possess, a sound and useful education.—*Labourers' Friend Society's Magazine*.



## THE WELLINGTON SHIELD.



## No. II. THE BATTLE OF ASSAYE; ITS CAUSE, AND CONSEQUENCES.

WE sometimes read in history of great victories achieved over large armies, by forces quite insignificant in point of numbers and physical strength, when compared with the hosts which they have vanquished; and, in all such cases, the moral superiority of the conquerors never fails to excite our highest admiration and respect. Of this kind is the celebrated battle of Assaye, which forms the subject of illustration in the first compartment of the border of the Wellington Shield, and which it is our task now to describe.

Amongst the many native powers which ruled in the peninsula of Hindoostan at the commencement of the present century, one of the most formidable was that known by the name of the MAHRATTA EMPIRE. This power exhibited the curious anomaly of a confederacy of princes, all independent of each other,—all rendering a nominal allegiance to one common ruler, whom they invested with the title and dignities of king, yet whom they debarred from the enjoyment of any real power,—and all submitting to the executive authority of an hereditary supreme magistrate, called the *Peishwah*.

The Mahratta tribes were first formed into a nation between the years 1660 and 1670 by Sevajee, who raised up for himself a powerful monarchy, which he transmitted to his descendants after him. These continued to maintain the authority of their ancestor, under the title of *Rajahs of Sattarah*, until the middle of the last century, when the reigning king was persuaded to renounce his kingly power, and sanction all the Peishwah's measures, on certain conditions. These conditions were not kept, and the unhappy prince was imprisoned in a dungeon, where he soon pined away and died. His descendants succeeded regularly to his title and his captivity, while the Peishwah as constantly retained the real power of the government. In his intercourse with them, indeed, he strictly observed every form and ceremo-

nial of respect; and, on his accession to office, always received the dress of honour from the Rajah, who was thus strangely enough at once his sovereign and his prisoner.

Since the first establishment of the Mahratta power, it had always been the policy of the English in India to maintain a friendly intercourse with the supreme head of that nation; and when the formidable and inveterate enmity of the native princes, Hyder Aly and his son Tippoo Saib, threatened to destroy the British dominion in India, a new treaty of alliance was concluded with the Peishwah.

Notwithstanding, however, this apparent amity, the Mahrattas carried on a secret correspondence with Tippoo, and, after his death, endeavoured to excite his family to oppose the arrangements which were made for the settlement of the Mysore country. The Peishwah himself had in his turn been supplanted by Scindiah, a rival prince, and at this time possessed merely a nominal authority. The supremacy of this chieftain was, however, contested by an active competitor, named Holkar, and the result was a war between them. The Peishwah was, of course, compelled to aid Scindiah; but when the approach of Holkar had somewhat diminished his fear of that chief, he seized the opportunity of proposing an alliance to the British government, which should enable him to regain his lost authority. The proposal was accepted, and Scindiah was invited to become a party to it; but before any arrangement could be entered into, the hostile armies engaged in battle. Holkar was victorious, and the Peishwah took refuge in Bombay, leaving his capital in the possession of the conqueror. In this state of things, it appeared to the British Governors of Madras and Bombay, that they ought to take immediate steps to bring about the restoration of the Peishwah. A detachment of troops was accordingly ordered to advance into the Mahratta territory, under the command of Major-General Wellesley (now the Duke of Wellington), who was thought to be peculiarly quali-

fied for the service, because of his local knowledge of the country, and his personal influence among its inhabitants.

The fugitive Peishwah was quickly reinstated at Poonah, which Holkar had quitted on the approach of the British force. His old protector, Scindiah, had in the mean time collected a large army, avowedly for the purpose of opposing Holkar, and avenging the late defeat. But the enmity of the rivals soon subsided, and merged in a common hostility to the British, in which they were joined by another native prince, the Rajah of Berar. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to effect negotiations with the confederates, and their designs becoming at length apparent, the Marquis Wellesley, then Governor-General of India, instantly concerted vigorous measures for their suppression. A campaign was planned on a scale of magnitude never before contemplated by any European in India; and the command of one of the armies employed was given to General Wellesley.

The great difficulty which Europeans have to encounter in Indian warfare, is that arising from the predatory plan of operations adopted by the native troops, who constantly disappear before the advance of a disciplined enemy, and strive to the utmost, to avoid being drawn into an open battle. Hyder Aly well knew the advantages of this mode, and he practised it with success. An English commander, weary of pursuing him, once wrote him a letter, in which he pointed out how disgraceful it was for a prince like himself, at the head of a large army, to fly before the small force of his opponents. "Give me," replied Hyder, "the same sort of troops that you command, and your wish for battle shall be gratified. You will understand my mode of war in time. Shall I risk my cavalry which cost a thousand rupees each horse, against your cannon-balls that cost two pice? No; I will march your troops till their legs swell to the size of their bodies. You shall not have a blade of grass nor a drop of water. I shall hear of you every time your drum beats, but you shall not know where I am once a month. I will give your army battle, but it must be when I please, and not when you desire it."

General Wellesley was aware of the disposition of the Indian generals to act upon this policy, and he took his measures accordingly. On the 21st of September, he joined Colonel Stevenson, who was stationed at Budnapoor with 8000 men; and at this time the whole Mahratta army was strongly posted about Bokerdun. It consisted of about 38,500 cavalry, 10,500 regular infantry, 500 matchlock-men, and 500 rocket-men, with 190 pieces of ordnance. In addition to this force, Scindiah had an advanced party of a few thousand well-trained Mahratta horse, dispersed through the Adjuntie hills, which separated him from the British army.

A plan of operations was immediately arranged, and General Wellesley moved off by the eastern road round these hills, while Colonel Stevenson marched by the western route, so as to leave no way of escape open for the enemy to pass to the southward. When the general reached the ground of encampment which he had intended to occupy, on the 23rd, he found himself not more than five or six miles from the Mahratta army. From certain intelligence, he inferred the intention of the enemy to escape, and he, therefore, resolved to attack them at once, without waiting for Colonel Stevenson. He accordingly moved forward, and found them encamped between the Kaitna and the Juah, two rivers which run nearly parallel toward the point of their junction. Their line extended along the north bank of

the Kaitna; the banks of this river are high and rocky, and the only passage practicable for guns the enemy had taken care to occupy. Their right was composed wholly of cavalry; and their cannon and infantry, which were the particular object of the British commander, were on their left, near the fortified village of Assaye. The handful of British troops which was now advancing down on this formidable array, did not exceed 4500 men, but the general sentiment was that of their commander, "They cannot escape us."

Crossing the river beyond the enemy's left, he drew up his infantry between the rivers, in two lines, and leaving his cavalry as a reserve in a third, advanced to attack the flank of his opponents. His intention was perceived, and the enemy, changing the disposition of his infantry and guns, instantly opened a heavy cannonade, the execution of which is described as terrible. The picquets on the English right suffered particularly; their guns were disabled and their bullocks killed. The moment was critical, and a large body of Mahratta horse seized the opportunity to charge the thinned ranks of their opponents; but they were bravely repelled, and the order was given for the advance of the British cavalry. "The 19th light dragoons," says Captain Grant Duff, "who only drew 360 swords, received the intimation with one loud huzza! Accompanied by the 4th native cavalry, who emulated their conduct throughout this arduous day, the 19th passed through the broken but invincible 74th regiment, whose very wounded joined in cheering them as they went on, cut in and routed the horse, and dashed on at the infantry and guns. The British infantry pressed forward, the enemy's first line gave way, fell back on their second, and the whole were forced into the Juah, at the point of the bayonet. As the British line advanced, they passed many of the enemy, who either appeared to have submitted, or lay apparently dead. These persons rising up, turned their guns on the rear of the British line, and after the more important points of the victory were secured, it was some time before the firing thus occasioned could be silenced. The enemy's horse hovered round for some time, but when the last body of infantry was broken, the battle was completely decided, and ninety-eight pieces of cannon remained in the hands of the victors."

Scarcely ever was there a victory gained against so many disadvantages; besides the general disparity of numbers, the enemy had disciplined troops in the field under European officers, who more than doubled the British force; and they had an overwhelming artillery, which was served with perfect skill, and dreadful effect. Nor was there ever one more complete, or more bravely achieved; stores, ammunition, camp-equipage, bullocks and camels, standards and cannon, were left upon the field, and abandoned to the conquerors.

The effect of the defeat was evinced in the proposals which it caused to be made by the enemy. One of Scindiah's ministers wrote to request that General Wellesley would send a British officer to his master's camp, for the purpose of negotiating terms of peace. But they soon resumed their treacherous and evasive policy, and not until the combined army had, in a great measure, been destroyed, would its leaders submit to any reasonable conditions.

The brilliancy of this victory was justly estimated, both in India and at home. The Governor-General expressed his high and cordial approbation of the magnanimity, promptitude, and judgment of Major General Wellesley, whose conduct, he rightly observed

united a degree of ability, of prudence, and dauntless spirit, seldom equalled, and never surpassed. Honorary colours, with a suitable device, were ordered to be presented to the corps of cavalry and infantry employed on the occasion; and the names of the brave officers and men who fell at the battle, would, it was said, be commemorated, together with the circumstances of the action, upon a public monument, to be erected at Fort William to the memory of those who had fallen in the public service during the present campaign.

General Wellesley, in this memorable campaign, received the first fruits of those honours, of which he was one day to reap so abundant a harvest. The inhabitants of the city of Calcutta presented him with a sword; his own officers with a golden vase; in England, the thanks of Parliament were voted him, and he was made a Knight Companion of the Bath. The people of Seringapatam presented an address to him on his return, (for he was Governor of that place,) in which they expressed their gratitude to him, in the most pleasing terms. They had reposed for five years, they said, under the shadow of his protection: they had felt, during his absence in the midst of battles and victory, that his care for their welfare had been extended to them, as amply as if no other object had occupied his mind: they were preparing in their several castes, the duties of thanksgiving and of sacrifices to the preserving God, who had brought him back in safety, and they implored the God of all castes and of all nations, to hear their constant prayer, whenever greater affairs should call him from them, for his health, his glory, and his happiness.

THEY who gird themselves for the business of the world, should go to it with a sense of the utility, the importance, the necessity, and the duty of their exertions.—SOUTHEY.

THE love of flowers seems a naturally-implemented passion, without any alloy or debasing object as a motive: the cottage has its pink, its rose, its polyanthus: the villa, its geranium, its dahlia, and its clematis: we cherish them in youth, we admire them in declining days; but, perhaps, it is the early flowers of spring that always bring with them the greatest degree of pleasure; and our affections seem immediately to expand at the sight of the first opening blossom under the sunny wall, or sheltered bank, however humble its race may be. In the long and sombre months of winter, our love of nature, like the buds of vegetation, seems closed and torpid; but like them, it unfolds and reanimates with the opening year, and we welcome our long-lost associates with a cordiality, that no other season can excite, as friends in a foreign clime. The violet of autumn is greeted with none of the love with which we hail the violet of spring; it is unseasonable; perhaps it brings with it rather a thought of melancholy than of joy; we view it with curiosity, not affection; and thus the late is not like the early rose. It is not intrinsic beauty or splendour that so charms us, for the fair maids of spring cannot compete with the grander matrons of the advanced year; they would be unheeded, perhaps lost, in the rosy bowers of summer and of autumn; no, it is our first meeting with a long-lost friend, the reviving glow of a natural affection, that so warms us at this season: to maturity they give pleasure, as a harbinger of the renewal of life, a signal of awakening nature, or of a higher promise: to youth, they are expanding beings, opening years, hilarity and joy; and the child let loose from the house, riots in the flowery mead, and is

"Monarch of all he surveys."

There is not a prettier emblem of spring than an infant sporting in the sunny field, with its osier basket wreathed with butter-cups, orchises, and daisies. With summer flowers we seem to live as with our neighbours, in harmony and good-will: but spring flowers are cherished as private friendships.—*Journal of a Naturalist.*

#### THE ARABS AND THE DATE-TREE.

WHEN I looked on the desert arid plains, which lie between Abusheher and the mountains, and saw the ignorant, half-naked, swarthy men and women broiling under a burning sun, with hardly any food but dates, my bosom swelled with pity for their condition, and I felt the dignity of the human species degraded by their contented looks.

"Surely," said I to an Armenian, "these people cannot be so foolish as to be happy in this miserable and unimproved state. They appear a lively, intelligent race—can they be insensible to their comparatively wretched condition? Do they not hear of other countries, have they no envy, no desire for improvement?" The good old Armenian smiled, and said, "No; they are a very happy race of people, and so far from envying the condition of others, they pity them. But," added he, seeing my surprise, "I will give you an anecdote, which will explain the ground of this feeling."

"Some time since, an Arab woman, an inhabitant of Abusheher, went to England with the children of Mr. B. She remained in your country four years. When she returned, all gathered round her to gratify their curiosity about England. 'What did you find there? Is it a fine country? Are the people rich—are they happy?' She answered, 'The country was like a garden; the people were rich, had fine clothes, fine houses, fine horses, fine carriages, and were said to be very wise and happy!' Her audience were filled with envy of the English, and a gloom spread over them, which showed discontent at their own condition. They were departing with this sentiment, when the woman happened to say, 'England certainly wants one thing.' 'What is that?' said the Arabs eagerly. 'There is not a single date-tree in the whole country!' 'Are you sure?' was the general exclamation. 'Positive,' said the old nurse; 'I looked for nothing else all the time I was there, but I looked in vain!' This information produced an instantaneous change of feeling among the Arabs; it was pity, not envy, that now filled their breasts; and they went away, wondering how men could live in a country where there were no date-trees!"—*Sketches of Persia.*

#### H Y M N,

BEING AN ADAPTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER TO A LATER STAGE OF OUR SAVIOUR'S MINISTRY.

"Hitherto ye have asked nothing in my Name. Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

THOU to whom all power is given,  
Here on earth, above, in heaven,  
Jesus, Saviour, mighty Lord,  
Be thy holy name adored!

In our hearts all-sovereign reign;  
All the world be thy domain!  
May redeemed man, we pray thee,  
Like the Angelic Host, obey thee  
Thou who dost the ravens feed,  
Grant us all our bodies need;  
Thou in whom we move and live,  
Daily grace sustaining give!

Pardon us, our sins confessing;  
Keep us from afresh transgressing.  
May we pardon one another,  
As becomes a sinning brother.

In temptation's dreadful hour,  
Shield us with thy gracious power.  
From Satan's wiles our hearts defend,  
Saviour, Comforter, and Friend!

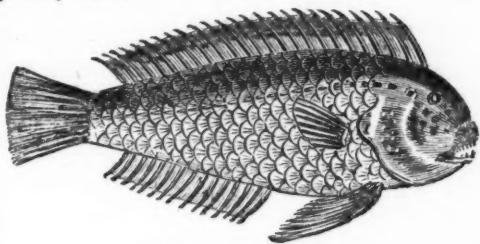
Glory to thee on earth be given,  
Christ our King the Lord of heaven!  
Glory to thee, great "First and Last,"  
When this earth, and time are past!—A. B. D.

THERE is no greater argument in the world of our spiritual weakness, and the falseness of our hearts in matters of religion, than the backwardness most men have always, and all men sometimes, to say their prayers; so weary of their length, so glad when they are done, so ready to find an excuse, so apt to lose an opportunity. Yet it is no labour, no trouble, they are thus anxious to avoid, but the begging a blessing and receiving it: honouring our God, and by so doing, honouring ourselves too.—JEREMY TAYLOR.



### THE DORADO (OR DOLPHIN,) AND THE FLYING FISH.

How many and various are the proofs which we have of the wisdom and goodness of God, in the different ways in which he has provided for the welfare and security, not merely of man, but also of the several branches of the brute creation! Amongst these, we may justly mention this,—that those living creatures, which, either from the number or power of their enemies, are more peculiarly exposed to danger, are generally, in a due proportion, more abundantly supplied with the means, if not of resistance, yet of concealment, or escape. In no instance, we think, does this remark appear more applicable than in the case of the Flying-fish. "All animated nature," says Buffon, "seems combined against this little creature." Not only does it fall a victim to some of the larger inhabitants of the deep, but the Tropic-bird and the Albatross are ever on the wing to seize it for their prey. Its chief and most natural enemy, however, is the fish called the Dorado, or as it is erroneously termed by sailors, the Dolphin\*. And it is against this powerful foe that it seems to be especially armed.



THE DORADO, OR DOLPHIN.

The Dorado is described as being about six feet in length, and at once one of the most active and most beautiful of the finny tribe. The back is ornamented all over, with spots of a bluish green and silver; the tail and fins are of the colour of gold; the eyes are remarkably large and beautiful, and surrounded with circles of the most shining golden hue. In fact, it is from its appearance that it takes its name Dorado, or Golden, and it is said to be so extremely brilliant and singularly beautiful whilst living, and in active motion, that no painting or other representation, much less any description, can give any thing like a just idea of it. On the other hand, its strength and power of pursuit are represented as amazingly great.

It is furnished with a full complement of fins, and such is the power of the muscles with which it is provided, that it can not only cut its way through the water with monstrous rapidity, but can bound to a considerable height, and to the distance of eight or ten yards over the waves. It is moreover one of the most voracious of its kind. We may then easily imagine what a formidable enemy this creature must be to any of its own species which it may select for its prey. As it is the unhappy fate of the Flying-fish to be its favourite food, and to be the inhabitant of the same seas, in the tropical regions, it is, of course, in constant danger, from the eager pursuit of the Dorado.

But let us here observe, what peculiar means of security it has pleased the Creator to bestow upon this little animal. As it is but about nine inches long, and seldom grows above the size of a herring, any attempt at resistance, would, of course, be in vain. All its hope of safety must arise from its

being able to escape from danger. And its first prospect of doing so, arises from the vast numbers in which they, as well as most of those creatures which are the prey of others, are usually found. They have also the same power of swimming away from their enemy as possessed by other fish of the same size as themselves. But in addition to these common qualities, they are furnished with two pair of fins, which are longer than their whole body, and are moved by a set of muscles, which are stronger than any other, and with these they are enabled, leaving their natural element, to wing their way for a very extraordinary distance through the air, out of the reach of their pursuing foe.

The description given of the Flying Fish, and of their pursuit by the Dorado, or Dolphin, by Captain Basil Hall, is so interesting, that we are tempted to present it to our readers nearly in his own words. "No familiarity," says that amusing writer, "with the sight, can ever render us indifferent to the graceful flight of these most interesting of all the finny, or, rather, winged tribe. On the contrary, like a bright day, or a smiling countenance, the more we see of them, the more we value their presence. I have, indeed, hardly ever observed a person so dull, that his eye did not glisten as he watched a shoal, or, it may be called, a covey of Flying-fish rise from the sea, and skim along for several hundred yards. There is something in it so peculiar, so totally different from every thing else in other parts of the world, that our wonder goes on increasing every time we see one take its flight; so that we may easily excuse the old Scotch wife, who said to her son, when he was relating what he had seen abroad; 'You may hae seen rivers o' milk, and mountains o' sugar, but you'll ne'er gar (make) me believe you hae seen a fish that could flee!'

"I have endeavoured to form an estimate as to the length of these flights, and find two hundred yards, or about an eighth of a mile, set down in my notes as about the longest distance, which they perform in somewhat more than half a minute. These flights, however, vary from that length to a mere skip out of the water. Generally speaking, they fly to a considerable distance in a straight line, in the wind's eye, that is, exactly towards the point from which the wind blows, and then gradually turn off to leeward. But sometimes they merely skim the surface, so as to touch only the tops of the waves. A notion prevails afloat, but I know not how just it may be, that they can fly no longer than whilst their wings, or fins, remain wet. That they rise as high as twenty feet above the water is certain, from their being found in parts of a ship, which are full as much as that out of the sea. I remember seeing one about nine inches in length, and weighing not less, I should suppose, than half a pound, skim into the *Volage's* main-deck port just abreast of the gangway. One of the seamen was coming up the quarter-deck ladder at the moment, when the fish, entering the port, struck the astonished mariner on the temple, knocked him off the step, and very nearly threw him down at full length.

"The amiable Humboldt good-naturedly suggests that the flights of these fish may be mere gambols, and not proofs of their being pursued by their enemy, the Dolphin. I wish I could believe so; for it were much more agreeable to suppose, that at the end of the fine sweep which they take, they fall safely on the bosom of the sea.

"I do not recollect whether that eminent traveller, who not only observes many more things than most men, but describes them much better, has any where

\* Its name amongst naturalists is the *Coryphæna hippurus*, and it is different from the Dolphin, *Delphinus phocæna*, to which sailors give the name of the Porpoise.

mentioned his having witnessed one of these chases. The best I remember, was during the first voyage I ever made, through those regions of the sun, the tropical seas, and I will therefore describe it.

"We were stealing along pleasantly enough, under the influence of a newly-formed breeze, which, as yet, was confined to the upper sails, and every one was looking open-mouthed to the eastward, to catch a little cool air, or was congratulating his neighbour on getting rid of the calm in which we had been so long half-roasted, half-suffocated, when about a dozen Flying-fish rose out of the water, and skimmed away to windward, at the height of ten or twelve feet above the surface. Shortly after, we discovered two or three Dolphins, ranging past the ship in all their beauty. Presently, the ship, in her course, put up another shoal of those little creatures, which flew in the same direction which the others had taken.

"A large Dolphin, which had been keeping company with us at the depth of two or three fathoms, and as usual, glistening most beautifully in the sun, no sooner detected our poor dear little friends taking wing, than he turned his head towards them, and darting to the surface, leaped from the water with a swiftness little short, as it seemed, of a cannon-ball. But, although the force with which he shot himself into the air, made him gain upon the Flying-fish at first, yet the start which they had got, enabled them to keep a-head of him for a considerable time.

"The length of the Dolphin's first spring, could not be less than ten yards; and after he fell, we could see him gliding like lightning through the water, for a moment, when he again rose and shot forward with a speed considerably greater than at first, and of course, to a still greater distance. In this manner, the merciless pursuer seemed to stride along the sea with fearful rapidity, whilst his brilliant coat sparkled and flashed in the sun quite splendidly. As he fell headlong on the water, at the end of each huge leap, a series of circles were sent far over the still surface, which lay as smooth as a mirror.

"The group of Flying-fish thus hotly pursued, at length dropped into the sea; but we were rejoiced to observe, that they merely touched the top of the swell, and scarcely sunk into it: at least, they instantly set off again in a fresh, and even more vigorous flight. It was particularly interesting to

observe, that the direction they now took was quite different from the one in which they had set out; thus implying, that they had detected their fierce enemy, who was following them, with giant steps, along the waves, and was now rapidly gaining upon them. His terrific pace, indeed, was two or three times as swift as theirs,—poor little things!

"The Dolphin was fully as quick-sighted as the Flying-fish. For whenever they changed their flight in the smallest degree, he lost not the tenth part of a second in shaping a new course in pursuit, whilst they, in a manner really not unlike that of the hare, doubled more than once upon their pursuer. But it was soon too plainly to be seen, that the strength and confidence of the Flying-fish was fast ebbing. Their flights became shorter and shorter, and their course more fluttering and uncertain, whilst the enormous leaps of the Dolphin, appeared to grow only more vigorous at each bound. At last, indeed, we could see, or fancied we could see, that this skilful sea-sportsman so arranged all his springs, that he contrived to fall at the end of each, just under the very spot, on which the exhausted Flying-fish were about to drop! Sometimes this took place at too great a distance for us to see from the deck exactly what happened; but on our mounting high into the rigging, we could discover that many of the unfortunate little creatures, one after another, either fell right into the Dolphin's jaws, as they lighted on the water, or were snapped up instantly afterwards."

It must be confessed, that it is scarcely possible to read this description, interesting as it is, without feeling, not only a degree of pain for the little fish, but also of resentment against their persevering foe: but we should recollect, that the Dolphin is here only following the instinct of its nature, in a manner necessary for its very existence. If, conscious of the pain it was inflicting, it were, simply for its own amusement, wantonly to trifle with the peace and comfort of the creatures it thus pursues to the death, there might, perhaps, be some ground for our resentment; but the fact is, its object is to satisfy the appetite given it by its benevolent Creator, and that with the very food which seems to have been more especially provided for it. And in this there is no more cruelty than in our putting such animals to death, as are necessary for our support

D. I. E.



THE DOLPHIN (OR DORADO,) PURSUING THE FLYING-FISH.